

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1.     A system for providing links to services available to an  
2     operably connected local computer over a network, comprising:  
3                   a thin portal service for finding services available to said local  
4     computer;  
5                   a thin portal service web content created by said thin portal  
6     service for returning links to the discovered available services; and,  
7                   a web browser installed on said local computer for displaying  
8     said thin portal service content.
- 1                   2.     The system as defined in claim 1 wherein said thin portal  
2     service queries the network for information on the current environment.
- 1                   3.     The system as defined in claim 2 wherein said thin portal  
2     service queries the network by determining any one from the following group  
3     of network information:  
4                   network information on the current environment of the local  
5     computer;  
6                   active network address of the local computer;  
7                   available communication with the public Internet by the local  
8     computer;  
9                   available communication with the public Internet by a web proxy  
10    server connected to said local computer;  
11                  available services located on the local area network;  
12                  type of available services located on the local area network; and,  
13                  available devices located on the local area network.

1           4.     The system as defined in claim 1 wherein said thin portal  
2 service creates said thin portal web content providing links to the discovered  
3 available services.

1           5.     The system as defined in claim 1 further comprising a  
2 personal imaging repository for storing imaging data to be used by the  
3 available services, wherein said personal imaging repository is an exchange  
4 infrastructure between the imaging data and the available services.

1           6.     The system as defined in claim 5 wherein said personal  
2 imaging repository is associated through user information stored with said  
3 personal imaging repository.

1           7.     The system as defined in claim 6 wherein said user  
2 information is available through an extension component.

1           8.     The system as defined in claim 5 wherein said personal  
2 imaging repository stores the imaging data in a plurality of file formats.

1           9.     The system as defined in claim 8 wherein said file format  
2 is any one from the group consisting of:

3                 Joint Photographic Experts Group Format;  
4                 Graphics Interchange Format;  
5                 Portable Network Graphics Format;  
6                 Tagged Image File Format;  
7                 Portable Document Format; and,  
8                 Microsoft Windows bitmap format.

1           10.    The system as defined in claim 5 wherein said personal  
2 imaging repository comprises an imaging data store for storing imaging data.

1           11.    The system as defined in claim 10 wherein said imaging  
2 data store is assigned to a user associated with said personal imaging repository  
3 for storing imaging data for user usage.

1                   12. The system as defined in claim 10 wherein said imaging  
2 data store is assigned to a web service for storing imaging data available to the  
3 public.

1                   13. The system as defined in claim 5 wherein said personal  
2 imaging repository comprises a composition store for storing imaging  
3 compositions of the imaging data that are serviced as a single unit.

1                   14. The system as defined in claim 13 wherein said imaging  
2 composition comprises a link reference for each imaging data.

1                   15. The system as defined in claim 5 wherein one of the  
2 available services is an imaging source service for accessing said personal  
3 imaging repository assigned to a particular user profile.

4                   16. The system as defined in claim 5 wherein one of the  
5 available services is an imaging destination service for providing service to the  
6 assigned user of the personal imaging repository.

7                   17. A local computer for providing links to services available  
8 over a network, comprising:

9                   a thin portal service for finding available services that are  
10 operably connected to the local computer;

11                  a thin portal service web content for returning links to the  
12 discovered available services to said local computer;

13                  a web browser installed on said local computer for displaying  
14 said thin portal service content; and,

15                  a personal imaging repository for storing imaging data to be  
16 serviced by the available services;

17                  wherein said personal imaging repository is an exchange  
18 infrastructure between the imaging data and the available services.

1           18. A server computer for providing links to services available  
2 to an operably connected local computer over a network, comprising:  
3           a thin portal service for finding services available to said local  
4 computer;  
5           a thin portal service web content created by said thin portal  
6 service for returning links to the discovered available services; and,  
7           a web browser installed on said local computer for displaying  
8 said thin portal service content.

1           19. A method for providing links to services available to an  
2 operably connected local computer over a network, said method comprising the  
3 steps of:  
4           finding services available to the local computer;  
5           creating a thin portal service web content for returning links to  
6 the discovered available services; and,  
7           displaying said thin portal service content on the local computer.

1           20. The method according to claim 19 wherein said step of  
2 finding links to available services further comprising the steps of:  
3           querying network information on the current environment of the  
4 local computer; and,

5           determining the active network address of the local computer;

1           21. The method according to claim 19 wherein said step of  
2 finding services further comprising the step of discovering available services  
3 on the local area network.

1           22. The method according to claim 19 wherein said step of  
2 finding services further comprising the step of determining whether the local  
3 computer is connected to any available devices.

1           23. The method according to claim 19 wherein said step of  
2 finding services further comprising the steps of:

3           determining whether the local computer can communicate with  
4 the public internet; and,

5           determining whether there is a web proxy server connected to the  
6 local computer for communicating with the public Internet.

1           24. A computer program product comprising a computer  
2 usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied in the  
3 medium that when executed causes a computer to:

4           find services available to the local computer;

5           create a thin portal service web content for returning links to the  
6 discovered available services; and,

7           display said thin portal service content on the local computer.

1           25. A computer program product comprising a computer  
2 usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied in the  
3 medium that when installed in a server computer, the product causes the server  
4 computer to:

5           find services available to the local computer; and,

6           create a thin portal service web content for returning links to the  
7 discovered available services.

1           26. A computer program product comprising a computer  
2 usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied in the  
3 medium that, when installed in a local computer, the product causes the local  
4 computer to:

5           find services available to the local computer;

6           create a thin portal service web content for returning links to the  
7 discovered available services; and,

8 display said thin portal service content on the local computer.